Justice G.C. Garg to inquire into the cause of the accident is still awaited. The commission has been requested to complete the work at the earliest.

Railway Fare Freight Ratio

1582. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Railway fare-freight ratio, *i.e.*, earning of passenger km. *vis-a-vis* earning per tonnes km. is 0.32;

(b) whether this is one of the lowest in the world;

(c) if so, the comparative position; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve India's position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Railway fares and freight ratio (earning of passenger km. *vis-a-vis* earning per tonne km.) is 0.31 (approximate) in 1999-2000.

(b) to (c) The data relating to other railways of the world are not available with this Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

Schemes of track renewal in Madhya Pradesh

1583. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes relating to doubling, renewal and electrification of tracks which have been under implementation in Madhya Pradesh since the Seventh, the Eighth and the Ninth Five Year Plans;

(b) what has been the progress made so far;

(c) how long it would take to complete these projects; and

(d) what are the cost escalation estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Uni-gauge conversion of Bangalore-Bijapur-Sholapur Route

1584. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of uni-gauge conversion work on Bangalore-Bijapur-Sholapur route;

(b) whether the project has taken a long time for completion, adding up to cost over-runs and inconvenience to rail users in the area;

(c) whether Government are aware that Bijapur is a famous tourist Centre and transportation bottlenecks are depriving Government of good income from tourist arrivals; and

(d) whether Government have provided adequate funds in the Railway Budget, for speeding up work on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Bangalore to Gadag and Bijapur to Sholapur are already Broad Gauge. Work is in progress between Gadag and Bijapur for gauge conversion.

(b) The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. However, convenient connections have been provided at Gadag and Bijapur to minimise inconvenience to rail users.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Rs. 10 cr. has been proposed in the Budget 2001-02 for this project.